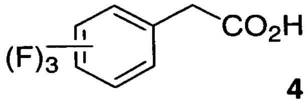
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula 1:



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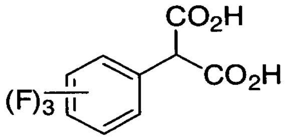
comprising: reacting a compound of the formula 3:



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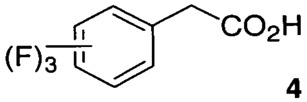
with a decarboxylating agent to produce a compound of formula 4.

2. A process in accordance with claim 1 wherein the decarboxylating agent is an acid selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric, p-toluenesulfonic and sulfuric acids.

3. A process in accordance with claim 2 wherein the decarboxylating agent is hydrochloric acid.

4. A process in accordance with claim 3 wherein the compound of formula 4 is 2,4,5-trifluorophenylacetic acid.

5. A process for the production of a compound of formula 4:



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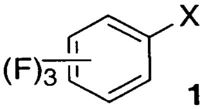
comprising:

a) reacting a compound of formula 1:



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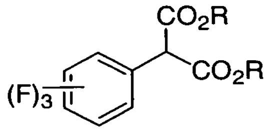
wherein X is a halo group selected from chlorine, bromine and iodine, with a compound of the formula:

ROOC-CH_2-COOR

wherein each R represents a C_{1-4} alkyl group, in the presence of a deprotonating agent and a copper (I) salt, to produce a compound of formula 2:



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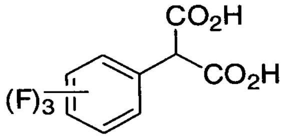
b) reacting compound **2** with a de-esterifying agent to produce a compound of formula 3:



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and

c) reacting the compound of formula 3 with a decarboxylating agent to produce a compound of formula 4.

6. A process in accordance with Claim 5 wherein each R represents ethyl.

7. A process in accordance with Claim5 wherein the deprotonating agent is sodium tert-butoxide.

8. A process in accordance with Claim 5 wherein the reaction is carried out in an aqueous environment.

9. A process in accordance with Claim 5 wherein the decarboxylating agent is an acid selected from hydrochloric, p-toluenesulfonic and sulfuric acids.

10. A process in accordance with Claim 9 wherein the acid is hydrochloric acid present in an amount sufficient to adjust the pH to about 0.5 to 1.5.

11. A process in accordance with Claim 5 wherein the temperature range is about 45 to 95 °C.

12. A process in accordance with Claim 5 wherein the compound of formula **4** is 1-bromo-2,4,5-trifluorobenzene.

13. A process in accordance with Claim 12 wherein the compound of formula **2** is 2,4,5-trifluorophenyl-diethylmalonate.